



# FLORIDA KEYS

## National Weather Service

### Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/keywest>

---

ISSUED: 1255 PM EDT SAT OCT 3 2009

## **8<sup>TH</sup> WARMEST SEPTEMBER FOR KEY WEST SINCE 1872**

KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ENDED THE MONTH WITH 3 RECORD WARM MINIMUM TEMPERATURES THIS PAST SEPTEMBER. THE LOW OF 85 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT ON THE 20TH TOPPED THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 84 DEGREES SET IN 1980. THIS TIES SEPTEMBER 3RD 2003 FOR THE WARMEST MINIMUM TEMPERATURE RECORDED IN SEPTEMBER. LASTLY...THE LOW OF 84 DEGREES ON THE 17TH OVERTOOK THE OLD RECORD OF 83 DEGREES IN 2007.

AVERAGE SEPTEMBER TEMPERATURES AT BOTH KEY WEST AND MARATHON AIRPORTS WERE 1.3 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL...84.7 AND 84.2 DEGREES RESPECTIVELY. THIS RANKS KEY WEST AS THE 5TH WARMEST SEPTEMBER IN THE PAST 30 YEARS AND THE 8TH WARMEST GOING BACK TO 1872.

RAINFALL AT THE AIRPORT LOCATIONS LEFT KEY WEST SLIGHTLY BELOW NORMAL AND MARATHON ABOVE NORMAL FOR THE MONTH. SEVERAL SITES IN THE MIDDLE AND UPPER KEYS REPORTED RAINFALL TOTALS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF LAST SEPTEMBER...WITH AROUND 2 INCHES OR MORE REPORTED AT 6 LOCATIONS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS OF SEPTEMBER AND INTO OCTOBER.

THE HIGHEST OF THESE SITES WERE TWO LOCATIONS IN KEY LARGO...DUE TO SLOW MOVING HEAVY SHOWERS THAT PASSED OVER THE UPPER KEYS. JOHN PENNEKAMP STATE PARK OBSERVATIONS SHOWED ALMOST 3.5 INCHES OF RAIN FELL BETWEEN THE 28TH AND 1ST...AND A COCORAHS SITE REPORTED NEARLY 5 INCHES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER...COMPARING 2009 TO 2008 AND TO NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

**SEPTEMBER RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL/2008 IN INCHES**

<b>Station</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Dep. fm Normal</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Change fm 2008-2009</b>
Dry Tortugas National Park	3.41		N/A	N/A
Key West WFO	5.38		10.42	52%
Key West International Airport	5.31	-0.14	8.12	65%
Big Coppitt Key	5.61		8.30	68%
Bahia Honda State Park	3.33		3.92	85%
Florida Keys Marathon Airport	7.12	+1.22	7.44	96%
Curry Hammock State Park	3.62		6.96	52%
Duck Key	6.48	+0.58	6.59	98%
Islamorada	6.68		8.88	75%
John Pennekamp State Park	7.58		6.91	110%
Key Largo	14.10		7.13	198%

OF SIGNIFICANCE IN THE ABOVE RAINFALL TABLE IS THE VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JOHN PENNEKAMP STATE PARK AND A COCORAHS SITE IN KEY LARGO...A FINE EXAMPLE OF VARIABILITY BETWEEN TWO NEARBY LOCATIONS.

THE CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER (CPC) EXPECTS STRENGTHENING AND LASTING EL NINO CONDITIONS THROUGH NORTHERN HEMISPHERE WINTER. FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS THIS MEANS TEMPERATURES FOR THE UPCOMING WINTER (DRY SEASON) MONTHS COULD BE SLIGHTLY COOLER THAN NORMAL...AND RAINFALL VALUES SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL. THIS IS A TYPICAL EFFECT OF EL NINO ON THE FLORIDA KEYS WEATHER PATTERN. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EL NINO...PLEASE VISIT THE CPC WEBSITE. ([HTTP://WWW.CPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov))

THE NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST ARE THE AVERAGE FOR 1979-2000 AND FOR MARATHON/DUCK KEY THEY THE AVERAGE SPANNING 1982-2004. RECORDS ARE NOT REPORTED FOR MARATHON DUE TO THE SHORT PERIOD OF DATA AT THAT LOCATION.

\$\$

ROSS